In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A mobile wireless cellular communications device comprising:

a wireless cellular transceiver and a controller for cooperating therewith for receiving text messages from a wireless communications network; and

a headset output connected to said controller;

said controller for

switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset, and

when in the audio message mode, outputting at least one audio message comprising speech generated from at least one of the received text messages via said headset output;

said controller being settable to an override mode in which said controller remains in the audio message mode irrespective of a connection between said headset output and the headset.

2. (Original) The mobile wireless communications device of Claim 1 wherein said headset output comprises a

wireless headset output for establishing a wireless connection with the headset.

3. (Original) The mobile wireless communications device of Claim 1 wherein said headset output comprises a headset jack for a wired headset.

4. (Original) The mobile wireless communications device of Claim 1 further comprising a user interface device connected to said controller, and wherein said controller switches to the audio message mode based upon an audio message mode command provided by a user via said user interface device.

5. (Original) The mobile wireless communications device of Claim 4 wherein said user interface device comprises a keypad connected to said controller.

6. (Original) The mobile wireless communications device of Claim 1 further comprising a text-to-speech module for cooperating with said controller to convert the at least one text message to the at least one audio message.

7. (Original) The mobile wireless communications device of Claim 1 further comprising a display connected to said controller for displaying the text messages.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Previously presented) A cellular communications system comprising

at least one mobile wireless communications device comprising

a wireless cellular transceiver and a controller for cooperating therewith for receiving text messages, and

a headset output connected to said controller, said controller for

switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset, and

when in the audio message mode, outputting at least one audio message comprising speech generated from at least one of the received text messages via said headset output; and

a wireless cellular communications network for sending the text messages to said at least one mobile wireless communications device;

said controller being settable to an override mode in which said controller remains in the audio message mode irrespective of a connection between said headset output and the headset.

10. (Original) The communications system of Claim 9 wherein said headset output comprises a wireless headset output for establishing a wireless connection with the headset.

11. (Original) The communications system of Claim 9 wherein said at least one wireless communications device further comprises a user interface device, and wherein said controller switches to the audio message mode based upon an audio message mode command provided by a user via said user interface device.

12. (Original) The communications system of Claim 9 wherein said at least one wireless communications device further comprises a text-to-speech module for cooperating with said controller to convert the at least one text message to the at least one audio message.

13. (Previously presented) The communications system of Claim 9 wherein said controller is also for generating a conversion request for the at least one text message and cooperating with the wireless cellular transceiver to forward the conversion request to said wireless communications network; and wherein said wireless communications network receives the conversion request and further comprises a text-to-speech module for converting the at least one text message to the at least one audio message, and wherein said wireless communications network

sends the at least one audio message to said at least one wireless communications device.

14. (Original) The communications system of Claim 9 wherein said at least one mobile wireless communications device further comprises a display connected to said controller for displaying the text messages.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

16. (Previously presented) A method for using a mobile wireless cellular communications device comprising a headset output, the method comprising:

receiving text messages from a wireless cellular communications network;

switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between the headset output and a headset;

when in the audio message mode, outputting at least one audio message comprising speech generated from at least one received text message via the headset output; and

selectively setting the mobile wireless communications device to an override mode in which the mobile wireless communications device remains in the audio message mode irrespective of a connection between the headset output and the headset.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the headset output comprises a wireless headset output for establishing a wireless connection with the headset.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the mobile wireless cellular communications device further comprises a user interface device connected to the controller; and further comprising switching to the audio message mode based upon an audio message mode command provided by a user via the user interface device.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 16 further comprising converting the at least one text message to the at least one audio message prior to outputting.

20. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium for use with a mobile wireless cellular communications device comprising a headset output, the computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing the mobile wireless communications cellular device to perform steps comprising:

receiving text messages from a wireless cellular communications network;

switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between the headset output and a headset;

when in the audio message mode, outputting at least one audio message comprising speech generated from at least one received text message via the headset output; and

selectively setting the mobile wireless communications device to an override mode in which the mobile wireless communications device remains in the audio message mode irrespective of a connection between the headset output and the headset.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein the headset output comprises a wireless headset output for establishing a wireless connection with the headset.

22. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein the mobile wireless cellular communications device further comprises a user interface device connected to the controller; and further comprising computer-executable instructions for causing the mobile wireless communications device to perform a step comprising switching to the audio message mode based upon an audio message mode command provided by a user via the user interface device.

23. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 further comprising computer-executable instructions for causing the mobile wireless cellular communications device to perform a step of converting the at

least one text message to the at least one audio message prior to outputting.